



## CALIFORNIA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Andrew Medina**  
**(916) 319-3686**

### **Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Recognizes Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

**Sacramento** – The California State Assembly celebrated May as Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Heritage Month today with the passing of Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 36, authored by Assemblymember Das Williams (D – Santa Barbara). ACR 36 commends California's Asian & Pacific Islander Americans for their notable accomplishments and outstanding service to the state. Awards were presented to distinguished APIAs during a special floor ceremony dedicated to honoring leaders who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of business, civil rights, labor, law, new media, and public service. In addition, the Legislature honored Nisei veterans for their historical impact.

"APIA Heritage month serves as a time to honor this history and to acknowledge how APIAs continue to contribute to all segments of our society," stated Assemblymember Das Williams in his floor presentation, "This month's commemoration of APIA Heritage Month serves as a reminder of the rich culture and diversity that makes our great State."

APIAs grew from 4.3 million in 2000 to 5.5 million in 2010, representing 33.6% growth in the last decade. Currently, APIAs constitute 15.5% of the state's population. The first APIAs came to California in the 1800s as independent miners and laborers. While the Irish were working on the Union Pacific track of the strategic Transcontinental Railroad, Chinese immigrants were hired to construct the Central Pacific track on the West Coast.

The impact of APIAs in the state continues to be evident through the accomplishments of the honorees as well as the presence of increasing APIA elected officials in state and local government. The 2011 Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Award Recipients include:

Christine K. Young - Excellence in Business  
Nitasha Sawhney – Excellence in Civil Rights  
Josie Camacho – Excellence in Labor  
Judge Lucy Koh – Excellence in Law  
Phil Yu – Excellence in New Media  
Efren Gorre – Excellence in Public Service  
Albert and Anna Wang - Excellence in Public Service  
Nisei Veterans – Historical Impact Recognition

"From the Nisei veterans who bravely fought in World War II to the Filipino farmworkers who helped establish the United Farm Workers, APIAs have made incredible contributions to this state and our nation," commented Assemblymember Warren T. Furutani (D-South LA County), "Celebrating APIA Heritage Month also means investing in our future by fostering the next generation of APIA leaders who will continue to contribute to the success of California."

*The API Legislative Caucus was established in 2001 with the mission of representing and advocating for the interests of the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander communities throughout California. Additionally, the Caucus seeks to increase Asian Pacific Islander participation and representation in all levels of government. Assemblymember Warren T. Furutani and Assemblymember Mary Hayashi serve as chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the caucus.*

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